

# WCIRTA

October, 2020



We hope that all WCIRTA members are busying working on projects in the house and outside in the garden or on landscaping.

The WCIRTA Board has cancelled our membership luncheon meeting at Mary's Restaurant scheduled for October 15th. Unfortunately, due to health concerns, our only membership meeting in 2020 has been our "legislator's breakfast" in Carterville in February. Our new retirees, dinner, along with our luncheon at Mackies and our annual "pie meeting" in Johnston City have all been cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to return to some semblance of normalcy in 2021!

The WCIRTA Board is always on the lookout for new board members. We have compiled a list of potential candidates from our membership list. If you are contacted, please consider joining the WCIRTA Board. The stipend is low but the camaraderie is high!

In the Fall 2020 edition of the IRTA Newsletter, IRTA President John Flaherty wrote, "There is some good news. The Illinois Retired Teachers Association membership increased to over 39,000 for the first time ever. Continue to help us by speaking with retiring educators and colleagues who retired earlier but had not joined us yet. We cannot continue to grow without your help."

Even though our state-wide membership number is the highest it has been, we have a large number of new and long-time retired teachers who are not IRTA or WCIRTA members. Please "spread the word" and try to recruit your friends and fellow retired teachers.

The IRTA Political Action Committee (IRTPAC) met recently to discuss and vote on potential candidates to endorse for the upcoming November general election. From our area, the IRTPAC has endorsed: Rep. Dave Severin (R-117) for the Illinois House and Terri Bryant (R-58) for the Illinois Senate. Ray Lenzi (D-12) was endorsed for the U. S. House of Representatives. Remember to vote on November 3, 2020.

As always, the WCIRTA Board encourages members to support the IRTAPAC by using the \$1 monthly donation service to "make your voice heard" in Springfield and to our legislators. Lobbying efforts are crucial in maintaining health care and stipend benefits.

We also appreciate the support offered by the IRTA Foundation to current educators and retired teachers. The Foundation offers grants to current teachers, scholarship stipends to teacher education students and supportive financial aid to retired teachers needing assistance with critical services. Forms to join and support the IRTAPAC and IRTA Foundation can be either downloaded or found in your edition of the IRTA Newsletter.

Enjoy the changing weather as fall approaches (but along with it the task of raking leaves)!

Bert Gordon  
WCIRTA President

## WCIRTA Membership Report – Fall 2020

**Good Day Retiree Members, Associates, and Friends.** Fall 2020 arrived yesterday and your Board of Directors continue to plan meetings around the continued COVID 19 pandemic. The health crisis has probably affected at least 1 family member, friend, or acquaintance. We continue to have the health and safety of all our members foremost in our planning. President Bert Gordon can be commended for his leadership during these difficult times. Our next scheduled meeting at Marys has been canceled and this newsletter will be the last for 2020. Your Board of Directors (BOD) did have a recent meeting. It gave me a smile as we all wore our PPE masks, because I for one don't have all of my hearing, so reading lips was not an option ;-). We also maintained a VERY safe distance and took all efforts to assure our host, First Presbyterian Church would continue to be a safe place to congregate.

These last few months have been quiet with just a few updates. We welcome all of the newly retired 2020 teachers to the WCIRTA with 1 free year of membership. I've only had a few take advantage of the benefit and welcome Joy Travelstead and Kerry Martin to our membership. If you see other 2020 retirees that have not joined, give them my or Kent Carrell's names. Membership info can always be found on our website at: <https://williamsoncountyrta.weebly.com/membership.html>

We also mourn the loss of a few of our colleagues. We've lost Lewie Miles, Leona Van, and Steve Wheeler in 2020. These retirees may be gone, but will not be forgotten.

It's also been a challenge to keep all of our records up to date. The state IRTA has maintained their regular updates. Our website at: <https://williamsoncountyrta.weebly.com/> has also been regularly updated. Still, I may have missed a few updates, so feel free to send me a text to 618-923-3629 or an email to [emax\\_1@mchsi.com](mailto:emax_1@mchsi.com) **Until we meet again, Keep Safe, Keep Smiling, and Don't Forget To Vote.**

**Steve Maxwell WCIRTA Membership/Web Guy**

## Information from Area 6 and the IRTA

I hope that you are maintaining a positive outlook during a very trying time for retirees in Illinois. I hope that you will come through the present COVID 19 crisis stronger and more resilient.

During the pandemic, IRTA has continued to work for Illinois retired teachers. The IRTA staff in Springfield has worked from home and in the Springfield office since February. During the pandemic shutdown the IRTA Executive Board of Directors has met several times by using Zoom. Several committees of IRTA have also had Zoom meetings. The Executive Board of Directors plans on meeting in October by using Zoom meetings.

IRTA Foundation has awarded scholarships to two students going into education. Rachel Durham received a \$1,500 scholarship and Allison Baer received a \$3,000 scholarship. The \$3,000 scholarship was provided through the generosity of former IRTA Treasurer Shirley Dodds.

Active teacher grants are due on October 1, 2020. IRTA Foundation is providing a total of \$36,500 in grants statewide. No single grant is to exceed \$750. The plan is to start providing the grants in January of 2021. I hope that Williamson County active teachers have taken advantage of this opportunity.

To my knowledge there has been only one face to face meeting of a Unit in Area 6. I attend a Unit meeting in Centralia on September 10, 2020. I have had an opportunity to attend one Williamson Executive Board in July that met in a face to face setting. CDC guidelines were followed both of the above meetings.

John Harland  
Area 6 Representative

## WCIRTA TREASURER'S REPORT

Date: 9/22/2020

<b><u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u></b>	<b>7/8/2020</b>	<b>\$3,420.15</b>
	<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
	<b>\$30.00</b>	
		<b>\$30.00</b>
	<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	
	<b>None</b>	
		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b><u>ENDING BALANCE</u></b>	<b>9/22/2020</b>	<b>\$3,450.15</b>

**IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2020 LOCAL DUES  
LOCAL DUES ARE NOW \$10.00 PER YEAR**

Please make your LOCAL dues check to: **WCIRTA**

MAIL TO: KENT CARRELL, Treasurer, 311 South 4th Street, Marion, IL 62959

Send State Dues to IRTA in Springfield (Dues Deduct is recommended)

### **IRTA Member Benefits—Article 4**

This article will continue the parade of benefits available to IRTA members that began with the initial item in August of 2019 and has continued in each issue of the WCIRTA Newsletter since. All of the benefits summarized below fall into the Informative Benefits area, except an Endorsed Benefit from Liberty Mutual Insurance for auto and home insurance. This benefit alone could save a member several hundred dollars. Call 800-699-4311 or go to [www.libertymutual.com/irta](http://www.libertymutual.com/irta) for complete details.

Various Travel Discounts are available from rental car companies including Hertz (800-654-2210 or [www.hertz.com](http://www.hertz.com)), Avis (800-331-1212 or [www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com)), and Budget (800-455-2848 or [www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com)). Orlando Vacations ([www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com](http://www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com)) and Vacations By Rail (877-929-7245 or [www.vacationsbyrail.com](http://www.vacationsbyrail.com)) offer travel discounts on a variety of areas included in destination travel. Discount codes are available for the asking.

Globus Vacations (844-877-7178 or [www.globusandcosmos.com](http://www.globusandcosmos.com)) has downsized because of Covid 19 and can no longer offer the 5% discount for individual member travel unless the trip is booked through IRTA's Tricia Klim. Road Scholar, a leading provider of educational travel, offers thousands of tours at discounted prices. Go to [www.roadscholar.org/AMBA](http://www.roadscholar.org/AMBA) for details.

IRTA Members can also get discounts for technological needs at Dell Computers (866-257-4711 or [www.Dell.com/mpp/amba](http://www.Dell.com/mpp/amba)) and preferred pricing on many Apple Products at (800-MY-APPLE or <http://store.apple.com/us/go/eppstore/amba>). Again, discount codes may be required and are available to IRTA members.

Flower discounts are available to IRTA members at (800-356-9377 or [www.1-800-Flowers.com](http://www.1-800-Flowers.com)). The promotional code is AMBA. Dining discounts at more than 18,000 restaurants are available by going online to [www.myAMBA dining.com](http://www.myAMBA dining.com).

Last, but certainly not least, here is the latest info on a new program called myAMBA discounts. To activate your own membership follow the 3 simple steps below and take advantage of benefits that include travel, dining, electronics, sports, entertainment and much, much more.

1. Go to [www.myAMBA discounts.com](http://www.myAMBA discounts.com) and enter your email address.
2. Enter the activation code as follows: ambasavers.
3. Register with your information and sign up for email alerts.

Can't wait until the next issue of the WCIRTA Newsletter for more information? Google [amba.infor](http://amba.infor) or [IRTAonline](http://IRTAonline) to learn more. (And while you're there, review some of the other benefits, all with low-cost payment options.)

I have been submitting in our newsletters biographical information on our Williamson County Illinois Retired Teacher Association board members. This has been done in order for you to get to know each board member a little better and to know who is representing our local association.

**Bob Campbell**, grew up in the IL suburbs of St. Louis, East Alton and Wood River

**Formal Education:**

1-6 Blair Elementary School in East Alton

7-8 Lewis & Clark School in Wood River

9-12 East Alton-Wood River Community High School-Graduated 1957

Attended Millikin University 1957-58

B A (Magna Cum Laude) in History from McKendree in 1961

Summer Institutes in Gifted Education & other graduate work at U of Illinois in 1964-66

Experienced Teacher Fellowship Program at Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1966

M A in History from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1967

Achieved Master Member status in IL Administrators Academy, 1995

**Education Career:**

8<sup>th</sup> grade at High Mount School in Belleville from 1961-63 and coached softball

Junior High and High School gifted classes at Roxana from 1964-67

Assistant Director of Gifted Demonstration Center in Marion from 1967-68

Director of Gifted Demonstration Center in Marion from 1968-69

Director of Gifted Area Service Center in Marion from 1969-71

Director of Gifted Programs in Spartanburg, S. Carolina from 1971-72

Director of WECEP Program at JH & teacher of CVE at Marion HS from 1972-76

Social Studies Teacher at Marion HS and intern at Marion Office from 1976-77

Director of Curriculum & Instructional Services from 1977-94

Retired from CUSD #2 in 1994 under provisions of '5 and 5' program of TRS

**Involvement with IRTA and WCIRTA:**

Life Member of IRTA and annual member of WCIRTA from 1994

Vice President of WCIRTA in 1995-96 and 2008-11

President of WCIRTA in 2012-16

Past President of WCIRTA 2016-20

Legislative Committee of IRTA from 2014-18

**Post Retirement Career:**

Alumni Director at McKendree College in Lebanon from 1995-98

So Il Schools Credit Union Marketing Director (part time) from 1998-2003

Inservice Training Consultant for Franklin Williamson ESR (part time) from 1998-99

Goals 2000 Director for Franklin Williamson ESR (part time) from 1999-2000

Director of School Safety Grant for Marion (part time) from 1999-2002

Consultant for Regional Economic Development Corp from 2002-09

Loren Taylor, Information Services